

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A u-bolt, comprising:
  - a) a shaft having a curved portion and two ends;
  - b) the ends each have a threaded surface;
  - 5 c) the curved portion is located between the ends;
  - d) at least a portion of the end has a trilobular shape; and
  - e) the curved portion is shaped so that a distance between the ends is shorter than the length of the end.
2. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces  
10 is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut.
3. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread.
4. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface and a  
15 second angled surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle with respect to the second angled surface.
5. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface and a second angled surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle with respect to the  
20 second angled surface ranging between 30° to 70°.
6. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface and a second angled surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle of 60° with respect to the second angled surface.
- 25 7. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that is provided with a root surface that is at an angle with respect to an axis of the end.
8. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a root surface that is at an  
30 angle between 4° and 8° with respect to an axis of the end.
9. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, where at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface a second angled

surface, and a root surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle with respect to the second angled surface, and wherein the root surface is at an angle with respect to an axis of the end.

10. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, where at least one of the threaded  
5 surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface a second angled surface, and a root surface located between the first angled surface and the second angled surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle with respect to the second angled surface, and wherein the root surface is at an angle with respect to an axis of the end.

11. A fastener assembly according to claim 1, where at least one of the threaded  
10 surfaces is provided with a locking thread that includes a first angled surface a second angled surface, and a root surface located between the first angled surface and the second angled surface, wherein the first angled surface is at an angle with respect to the second angled surface ranging between 30° and 70°, and, wherein the root surface is at an angle between 4° and 8° with respect to an axis of the end.

15 12. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and at least one thread configuration that orients the threads on a nut so that the threads on the nut align with the threaded configuration that re-forms the threads on the nut.

20 13. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a Vee shaped thread and a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut.

25 14. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a Vee shaped thread that is provided with a first side and a second side, wherein the first side is at an angle with respect to the second side.

15. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a Vee shaped thread that is provided with a first side and a second side, wherein the first side is at an angle ranging between 30° and 90° with respect to the second side.

30 16. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a curved thread that is provided with at least one curved surface.

17. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a curved thread that is provided with a curved surface, a first side, and a second side, wherein the first side is at an angle with respect to the second side.
- 5 18. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a curved thread that is provided with a curved surface, a first side, and a second side, wherein the first side is at an angle between 30° and 90° with respect to the second side.
- 10 19. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a curved thread that is provided with a curved surface, a first side, and a second side, wherein the first side and the second side are curved.
20. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a guide thread.
- 15 21. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a plateau thread.
22. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a plateau thread provided with a plurality of plateaus.
- 20 23. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a plateau thread provided with a plurality of plateaus that are conically or frusto-conically shaped.
24. A u-bolt according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the threaded surfaces is provided with a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on a nut and a plateau thread
- 25 that is provided with a ramped cross-sectional profile.
25. A u-bolt, comprising:
- a) a shaft having a curved portion and two ends;
  - b) the ends each have a threaded surface;
  - c) at least one of the threaded surfaces includes a thread configuration
  - 30 that re-forms a thread on a nut;
  - d) the curved portion located between the ends; and

- e) the curved portion is shaped so that a distance between the ends is shorter than the length of the shaft.

26. A u-bolt assembly, comprising:

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- a) a shaft having a curved portion and two ends;
- b) the ends each have a threaded surface;
- c the curved portion is located between the ends; and
- d the curved portion is shaped so that a distance between the ends is shorter than the length of the shaft;

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- e) a nut-washer assembly comprising a nut and a washer that are connected so that the nut rotates with respect to the washer;
- c) at least one of the threaded surfaces includes a thread configuration that re-forms a thread on the nut of the nut-washer assembly.

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